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UCAPAWA News

703 IPEU

VOL. II.—No. 5 October 6, 1941

ORGANIZING SWEEPS UNION

Organizing drives are on at high speed in all divisions of UCAPAWA with the biggest organizing staff in UCAPAWA history at work and the fullest membership participation yet achieved.

Campaigns are humming in some 62 plants as well as in the agricultural field, on Southern cotton plantations, in the beet sugar fields of the Rocky Mountain states and in big farms in California and the South West.

Food and Fish Canning Divisions

In the Fruit and Vegetable Canning Division which includes coffee, spices, etc. drives are under way in the Buffalo area at the big Heinz and Snider plants, in Los Angeles at Royal Packing, Sauer's Extracts in Richmond, Va., Penick and Ford in New Orleans, Nash Coffee in Minneapolis and Chase and Sanborn in Chicago, as well as a number of other plants.

In Fish Canning an organizer has been assigned to San Francisco to head up a concentrated drive to organize all fish canneries into UCAPAWA. Farrallone is the first plant being tackled.

Grain and Cereal Processing

In the Grain Processing Division drives are going forward at two feed mills in Memphis and two in Minneapolis, and at the Piel corn starch plant in Indianapolis, Ind., with a drive in another key corn starch plant slated to start next week.

New Tobacco Division Moves Fast

Consolidated, Bayuk and Zifferblatts are key cigar plants in Philadelphia which are being methodically signed up. Since the signing of the Camden Consolidated and Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert contracts demands for organization have been rolling in to the Tobacco Division, newest UCAPAWA division.

Work has just started on six important plants, three in Evansville, Ind., and three in Trenton, New Jersey covering another 4,000 workers.

Three Italian Cigar plants in New York City

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Truthful News Available

Exciting and accurate news and stories of particular importance to trade unionists, and facts which cannot be found in other papers are carried in **U. S. Week** (25c for 8 weeks) and in **In Fact** (25c for 20 issues). Sample copies were sent to all locals August 25 with full explanation of UCAPAWA's subscription campaign.

Giant Cigar Firm Signs Company Wide Contracts

After a five weeks' strike the Deisel-Wemmer-Gilbert Cigar Corporation, fifth largest cigar firm in the United States, signed CIO contracts establishing the highest wages and the best working conditions in the industry for its 2,200 workers. The contracts cover six plants of the company located in Detroit, Mich.; Lima, Findlay, Van Wert and St. Mary's, Ohio.

Wage Increases, Best Conditions in Industry

The contract grants wage increases of 10 to 15 per cent, raising the wages throughout the company to the highest wages in the industry. The contract provides for further wage benefits through equalization of all wages in the plant to be settled through the grievance machinery and provides that in case of an increase in the retail price of cigars there shall be immediate negotiations for further wage increases.

These wage increases, with the wage in-

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The UCAPAWA NEWS

Official publication of the United Cannery, Agricultural, Packing and Allied Workers of America, affiliated with the Congress of Industrial Organizations, 205 W. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois. Donald Henderson, President.

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MURRAY PLAN EXPLAINED

Local unions and councils all over the country are urging President Roosevelt to adopt the CIO Defense Plan which is known as the "Murray Plan" because it was presented by CIO President Philip Murray.

A copy of "The CIO Defense Plan," a pamphlet which gives the plan in full, has been sent to all UCAPAWA locals. A number of locals had written in for this information.

Labor Represented

The plan calls for industry councils which would organize each industry so that production of armaments and of consumer goods would be efficient and so that everybody could get a job. The councils would also be responsible for protecting the democratic rights of the American people, such as the right to organize.

Labor would be represented on these councils.

Adoption of such a plan would clearly help to correct a number of acutely serious situations in the United States today.

NEW LOCALS

Grain Processing

LOCAL 110, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Sept. 1, 1941.
Theron Ackerman, Pres.
1513 L St. S. W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Company: Quaker Oats.

LOCAL 92, Indianapolis, Ind., Sept. 22, 1941.
Ralph Campbell, Pres.
38 N. Elder Ave., Indianapolis, Ind.
Company: National Starch Products Co. (Piel's Starch).

Agriculture

LOCAL 307, Tulare County, Calif. Sept. 22, 1941.
R. F. Blackmon, Pres.
R. 1, Box 1358, Visala, Calif.

Fruit and Vegetable Processing

LOCAL 155, Oskaloosa, Iowa. Sept. 22, 1941.
James Inman, Jr., Pres.
1007 S. F St., Oskaloosa, Iowa.
Company: Marshall Canning Co.

Legislation and Government

FIGHT UNFAIR TAXES

Now that the first 1941 tax bill has passed Congress, labor must begin serious action to prevent another bill equally bad before Spring.

Through steam-roller tactics in the House, and Senate indifference to the public welfare, the current bill was jammed to passage in record time. It soaked the poor and relieved the rich. Even Treasury proposals for higher taxes on big incomes were rejected while low income groups got the works.

Labor Must Squawk

Action by Congress on this bill demonstrates the urgent necessity of labor initiative on this vital subject. Labor cannot afford to wait until a bill is ready for enactment to assert its viewpoint. It cannot allow the whole people to suffer because of absence of vigorous protests on behalf of fair taxes.

Words of Senator LaFollette who said, "It is a bill that plucks the goose that squawks the least," show that labor must do some "squawking," and do it in time. Seldom are the Congressional committees bothered by "little fellows" when a revenue bill is before them. But big interests are always on hand.

What To Do

UCAPAWA locals should take the following action:

1. Protest the unfair nature of the present bill to your representatives in Congress.
2. To those representatives who voted for the bill mention especially your displeasure with their vote. (Information on how your representatives voted may be obtained by writing John T. Jones, Labor's Non-Partisan League, 1037 Earle Bldg., Washington, D. C.)
3. Ask LNPL (address as above) to be put on their mailing list to receive full information on tax matters.

"Congressmen should be made clearly aware of the fact that while American workers are prepared to sacrifice for national defense," said John T. Jones, CIO Legislative Representative, "they will hold to accounting those elected representatives who impose excessive tax burdens upon labor while protecting the swelling war profits of big corporations."

Latest C. of L. Figures

"The cost of living index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics . . . is now 7.5 per cent higher than when war broke out in Europe two years ago," according to the official report of Secretary of Labor Perkins referring to Aug. 15.

Furthermore, "of this increase over 5 per cent has come since the beginning of 1941."

Biggest Cereal Plant Signs

First union contract with a Quaker Oats plant has just been signed in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, by UCAPAWA. This is the biggest cereal plant in the world.

Contract calls for up to three weeks' paid vacation depending on length of service, and time and one-half for Saturday and Sunday work and double time on holidays.

Grievance machinery includes provision for a regular weekly meeting between management and union top bargaining committee. Combined department and plant-wide seniority gives good job protection.

Quaker Oats local, as soon as the contract was signed, pledged support to organizing drives in Penick & Ford and National Oats and other food plants, as well as for the CIO organizing drive generally.

"Appreciation and thanks to UCAPAWA for assistance and leadership through Field Representative Ed Nix," was voted by the membership.

Historic Cigar Pact

(Continued from page 1)

creases granted when the union first began to organize amount to a total of over $400,000.

In addition to these gains the contract gives to the workers a number of benefits never before enjoyed by machine cigar workers.

Solid Seniority and Grievance Procedure

"This contract," said Donald Henderson, General President of UCAPAWA, "follows on the heels of the contract signed ten days ago with the Consolidated Cigar Company and establishes company-wide contracts with one of the nation's leading cigar manufacturers.

"In addition to giving the workers the highest wage scales in the industry, with such other benefits as paid vacations, time and a half and double time for overtime, it grants to the workers departmental, plant-wide and company-wide seniority, as well as a water-tight grievance procedure throughout all the plants of the company. A major bulwark of the machine cigar industry has finally been cracked.

To Break Sweat-Shop Conditions.

"Our organizing campaign in the other leading machine cigar companies, such as the Consolidated Cigar Company, the Bayuk Cigar Company, the General Cigar Company and the American Cigar Company has already received a great stimulus from this contract. UCAPAWA is determined that all leading cigar companies will be brought into the CIO so as to establish decent wages and working conditions throughout this sweat-shop industry."

FOOD TO LICK FASCISM

Delegates to the first Constitutional Convention of the Illinois State CIO Council voted unanimously to join with the farmers "in declaring that this war is our war" and urged "all aid immediately to the heroic armies and the people of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China."

Food in Abundance

Action came on the motion of Harold Lane, UCAPAWA secretary-treasurer, to send a telegram of support to Secretary of Agriculture Wickard and the regional agricultural conference meeting in Chicago to plan for assuring the production of sufficient food in 1942 both for the United States and for countries resisting aggression.

Full text of the telegram from the Illinois CIO Convention follows:

All Aid Immediately

"One thousand delegates to the First Illinois CIO Convention, join with the rest of the country in fully supporting your farm program of abundance to defend America. We agree wholeheartedly with President Roosevelt that 'food is a weapon against Hitlerism.'

"In this time of grave danger to our country, we join with the farmers in declaring that this war is our war. We urge all aid immediately to the heroic armies and the people of Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China.

Support Farmers

"In order to advance your program of abundance for defense, and enable the small farmers to participate fully in it, we support the farmers' demand for cost of production, we will support legislation to adjust farmer debts, and to increase appropriations and credits for aiding the small farmers.

"Our Convention greets the 400 delegates to your great conference. We from the cities unite with you from the countryside and will stop at nothing to defend our country and destroy Hitlerism."

Iowa Cannery Workers Win Contract

Marshall Canning Co. plant in Oskaloosa, Iowa, is the third plant of this company to come under contract with UCAPAWA.

"Through this contract union protection for the first time has been won by workers in this canning plant in a small town," Ed Nix, UCAPAWA representative pointed out. "It is typical of UCAPAWA's steady march forward in the widely scattered canning industry. With the constantly increasing strength of the locals in the big plants in larger communities the drive into these smaller communities gains momentum."

ALL-OUT ORGANIZING DRIVE

(Continued from page 1)

and the Lancaster, Pa., Consolidated plant are also tied into the drive.

Work in the Dried Fruit and Nut Division centers mostly in Los Angeles and Suffolk, Va., where Birdsong Peanut is on the move.

Cotton Seed Oil and Compress Division

Organization of cotton compresses and cotton seed oil mills is concentrated especially in Memphis, Tenn.; Phoenix, Arizona, and Houston, Texas, where the drives are "taking" with enthusiasm in some 15 plants.

In the Agricultural Division and in Dairy and in Horticulture (greenhouses and cemeteries) drives have been organized by the established local unions, in some cases with the help of organizers. Plans are under way to extend these drives.

Organizing Conferences

Most recent conference to set up an area organizing drive was in Chicago Sept. 25. Three new organizers went to work in Chicago Oct. 1 and the organizing committee with representation from the three Chicago locals is meeting to help get the ball rolling.

Potential membership in Chicago food plants is around 20,000. Within one square mile alone in Chicago there are some 75 food plants.

All this excellent work is largely due to the enthusiasm of conferences in the various areas which have enlisted UCAPAWA locals and members as an active part of the organizing drives.

UCAPAWA Members Working

This fact does not for one minute minimize the splendid work of International and Local organizers who are working seven days a week on this job (as well as servicing the established locals on important issues). But membership activity does mean that UCAPAWA is launched on a drive that is succeeding at an ever increasing rate.

Success comes because many loyal people are working instead of leaving the job up to the comparatively few full-time organizers.

Assessment Payments Essential

Not only work but financial support by the members up to the hilt is necessary. The organzational assessment must be paid 100 per cent by every local.

Full discussions throughout the union in the past months have shown without a shadow of doubt that now is the golden opportunity to build UCAPAWA strength and that every resource must be strained to that end.

Strengthening and protecting the established locals by new organizing and bringing the benefits of organization to thousands of badly exploited food and allied workers is a big program. Thousands of UCAPAWA members working together are accomplishing this essential job.

Local Union Gains & Activities

$3 to $5 More Per Week
is made by Cal San cannery workers in Los Angeles this season than in 1940 due to the UCAPAWA local 3 contract.

Mrs. Clarich Was Voted
$2 per month by the membership of local 79, Bay City, Mich. This is the twelfth local to sign up for regular support to Mrs. Clarich and her three children.

Overtime Pay Grievances
at Beutel Pickling, Bay City, Mich., have been successfully negotiated by local 79.

Punchy Radio Broadcast
in connection with the organizing drive at Royal Packing in Los Angeles was put on by Elmo Parra and Carmen Escobar of local 3.

Vigilante Activity
in Helena, Ark., is being vigorously fought by the CIO. Organizers, among them Bill Haber and others from UCAPAWA were threatened and prevented by a big mob from addressing the popular weekly CIO mass meeting. About 350 Helena workers have joined UCAPAWA.

New Contract
of United Service Workers in Milwaukee, Wis., local 107 calls for wage increases of $2.94 a week. This is an increase of some 11 per cent.

Sugar Beet Workers
are petitioning for a new government wage determination to raise wages for field workers, under the leadership of UCAPAWA's Sugar Beet Council. Already 1,064 petitions have gone to Washington. Some 26 beet workers are on the committee directing the campaign.

Petitions for Surplus Food
for Southern field workers have been filled out by UCAPAWA industrial locals as follows: 1, 3, 18, 55, 352, and 355. Where are the other industrial locals?

Wage Increases
of from 3½c to 6c an hour were won at De Soto cotton seed oil mills in Memphis. This is a real UCAPAWA victory in this shamefully low-paid industry.

Back Vacations
for six brothers who had lost their vacations last year were won by local 179.